

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An escutcheon for an appliance door assembly, said escutcheon comprising:

a front edge and a rear edge horizontally spaced from said front edge, said front and rear edges vertically depending from an escutcheon upper surface;

a control panel mounting surface portion comprising a mounting surface and a lower edge, said control panel mounting surface portion extending upwardly and inwardly from said lower edge and between said front and rear edges, said control panel mounting surface portion including a plurality of openings therethrough; and

a plurality of formations downwardly depending from said lower edge ~~and defining, each of said plurality of formations comprising a lip and a flange spaced from said lip to define a retaining slot therebetween, said flange extending at an acute angle with respect to said lip,~~ said retaining slot configured to receive an upper edge of a panel on the appliance door.

2. (currently amended) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said formations further comprise panel positioning ribs extending into said slot and configured to engage the upper edge of the panel on the appliance door.

3. (withdrawn) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 2 wherein ~~the door assembly includes the panel comprises~~ an outer panel with a curved outer surface, said ribs arranged beneath said lower edge to approximately match the curvature of the outer panel.

4. (currently amended) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 2 wherein each of said ribs ~~comprise further comprises~~ a guide surface extending at an acute angle with respect to ~~said lower edge lip~~.

5. (currently amended) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 4[,] wherein each of said ribs further comprising comprises a panel engagement portion extending from said guide surface.

6. (withdrawn) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising a curved front face extending beneath said lower edge.

7. (currently amended) An escutcheon for a dishwasher door assembly, said escutcheon comprising a lower edge of a control panel mounting portion and a plurality of formations depending therefrom, each formation of said plurality of formations comprising a panel engagement portion, a lip, and a guide surface formed at an acute angle with said lower edge respect to said lip, said guide surface and said lip defining a retaining slot therebetween, said guide surface defining a panel engagement portion, and said retaining slot configured to receive an upper edge of a panel on the dishwasher door.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim [[8]] 7 wherein said panel engagement portion extends substantially parallel to said lip.

10. (withdrawn) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said formations are located along a curved path.

11. (withdrawn) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 10 further comprising a control panel mounting surface, and a curved front face extending between said control panel mounting surface.

12. (withdrawn) An appliance door assembly comprising:

an outer door panel comprising an edge and an outer surface; and

an escutcheon attached to said edge, said escutcheon comprising a plurality of formations defining a retaining slot, said formations locating said outer surface within said slot when said edge is received in said slot.

13. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 12, said formations comprising a panel engagement portion and a guide surface extending at an angle from said panel engagement portion.

14. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said panel outer surface is curved, said formations depending from said escutcheon in a curved arrangement.

15. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 12, said escutcheon comprising a lip defining said retaining slot, said panel engagement portion extending substantially parallel to said lip.

16. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 12, said escutcheon comprising a lower edge, said lower edge substantially flush with said panel outer surface when said edge is received in said slot.

17. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said panel outer surface is curved.

18. (withdrawn) A dishwasher door assembly comprising:

an outer door panel comprising an edge and a curved outer surface; and

an escutcheon attached to said edge, said escutcheon comprising a plurality of formations defining a retaining slot, each said formation comprising a panel engagement portion, said panel engagement portion positioning said edge within said slot to that said panel outer surface is substantially flush with an outer surface of said escutcheon.

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19. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 18, each said formation further comprising an angled guide surface extending from said panel engagement portion.

20. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said outer surface of said escutcheon is curved.